

# **HOUSE . . . . . No. 3855**

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By Mr. Eldridge of Acton, petition of James B. Eldridge relative to providing health insurance coverage for cochlear implants in children. Financial Services.

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## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

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### **AN ACT PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANTS IN CHILDREN**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 9A of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as  
2 most recently amended by section 17, chapter 324 of the Acts of  
3 2006, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:—  
4       (16) Medical benefits provided under this section shall include  
5 coverage for operation to implant cochlear implants for children and  
6 post treatment services.

1     SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 108J the following section:—  
3       Section 108K. An individual policy of accident and sickness  
4 insurance issued pursuant to section 108 or group policy accident  
5 and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110 shall provide  
6 coverage for operations to implant cochlear implants in children and  
7 for post surgery services.

1     SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 8AA the following section:—  
3       Section 8BB. Any contract, except contracts providing supplemental coverage to medicare or other governmental programs,  
4 between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or  
5 group hospital service plan which shall be delivered or issued or  
6 renewed in the commonwealth shall provide, as a basic benefit to all  
7 individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and  
8 to all group members having a principal place of employment within

10 the commonwealth, for expense for operation to implant cochlear  
11 implants in children and for post surgery services.

1     SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 4AA the following section:—

3       Section 4BB. Any subscription certificate under an individual or  
4 group medical service agreement that shall be delivered, issued or  
5 renewed in the commonwealth shall provide as benefits to all indi-  
6 vidual subscribers within the commonwealth an all persons included  
7 in section 4C, coverage for operations implanting cochlear implants  
8 in children and for post surgery services.

1     SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 4S the following section:

3       Section 4T. Any health maintenance contract shall provide cov-  
4 erage for operation to implant cochlear implants in children and for  
5 post surgery services.